



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 27.6 Thursday, February 11, 2021

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



Van Buren Public Schools Athletic Director Joseph Brodie has announced the winners in the 2020 Hall of Fame. He said the winners' plaques are mounted on the wall of the Athletic Hallway at Belleville High School. Brodie said they cannot do an actual induction this year, but his plan is to bring these 2020 inductees to next year's celebration with the 2021 class.



13th Annual Report to Taxpayers

Van Buren Township 2020 Public Safety Wages and Cost to Township

	Police Wages	Fire Wages	Total Compensation
Police			
Floro, Kenneth	\$118,603.90	\$96,162.06	\$272,614.06
Abdilla, Marc	\$106,273.94	\$39,472.18	\$195,104.08
McCormick, Ryan	\$89,849.35	\$62,779.92	\$194,857.69
Keele, Louis	\$103,294.82	\$38,531.67	\$190,346.03
Champagne, David	\$97,078.71	\$44,091.65	\$190,061.53
Buckberry Jr, Mark	\$133,973.60		\$186,614.18
Smith, Amy	\$122,719.00		\$179,315.64
Bazzy, Charles	\$113,253.00		\$167,511.49
Schulz, Alexander	\$117,870.72		\$166,416.31
Stanton, Jeffrey	\$108,390.21		\$161,381.73
Raschke, Matthew	\$112,119.78		\$159,218.44
Laurain, Gregory	\$118,611.99		\$157,070.76
Rini, Michael	\$110,187.05		\$150,656.13
Papin, Michael	\$105,040.24		\$150,357.68
Gueli, Jeffery	\$112,639.51		\$148,349.95
Byrd, Adam	\$103,295.26		\$144,781.84
Short, Jordan	\$98,185.34		\$143,127.30
King, Mark	\$98,013.47		\$142,921.66
Barry, Ryan	\$97,824.41		\$135,864.23
Buxton, Mark	\$91,084.73		\$134,631.42
Wright, Jason	\$88,878.39		\$132,110.87
Griggs, Scott	\$97,191.08		\$131,061.62
Hillen, James	\$87,543.32		\$130,394.12
Valinski, Christopher	\$92,438.19		\$129,419.61
Harrison, Dale	\$94,946.43		\$128,456.89
Perez, Derek	\$91,004.45		\$127,704.14
Bidwell, Ryan	\$85,196.72		\$127,576.45
Wehrman, Patrick	\$90,350.14		\$126,921.26
Long, Michael	\$93,409.56		\$126,714.03
Hayes, Christopher	\$92,773.41		\$125,952.87
McCarthy, Donovan	\$88,046.11		\$124,164.49
Edge, Michael	\$81,380.79		\$122,957.53
Bettendorf, William	\$85,474.94		\$121,078.13
Mowbray, Kurtis	\$89,572.99		\$120,271.23
Evans, Seth	\$83,331.90		\$118,448.16
Tront, Jason	\$87,222.38		\$111,659.92
Daniels, Keith	\$85,127.04		\$111,071.25
Svabik, Daniel	\$81,163.23		\$105,937.83
Fedel, Andrew	\$67,801.50	\$2,623.68	\$92,248.08
Schmidtke, Casey	\$52,965.20		\$88,884.06
Velevska, Katerina	\$67,736.71		\$82,176.21
Harman, Christina	\$55,494.22		\$81,178.16
Hernandez, Daniel	\$32,020.45		\$44,456.59
Sweet, Frederick	\$19,296.40		\$24,557.40
Ordinance			
Schuler, David	\$54,858.16	\$36,450.41	\$124,197.80
Queener, Robert	\$60,621.09		\$98,080.72
Fire			
Bates, Jacob		\$5,657.28	\$6,191.89

(continued on page 3)

Head-on collision kills one, injures four in Van Buren Township

A 19-year-old Van Buren Township resident was killed in a two-vehicle, head-on collision on Belleville Road on Sunday that sent four others to hospitals with minor to critical injuries.

At about 6:25 p.m. the VBT Public Safety Department and Huron Valley Ambulance were dispatched to Belleville Road, south of Ecorse Road, for a reported two-vehicle, head-on collision.

The preliminary investigation showed that a 16-year-old VBT resident was driving a black Pontiac G6 southbound on Belleville Road when he lost control of the vehicle. The Pontiac G6 crossed the center line of Belleville Road directly into the path of a Chevrolet Trailblazer traveling northbound on Belleville Road and being driven by a 50-year-old Ypsilanti resident. The Trailblazer struck the Pontiac G6 on the rear passenger side.

The driver of the Pontiac G6 was treated

at the scene and transported by HVA to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital where he is listed in serious but stable condition.

A 17-year-old Van Buren Township resident, who was a passenger in the Pontiac G6 and had to be extricated from the vehicle by the VBT Fire Department, was treated at the scene and air-lifted by U of M Survival Flight to the University of Michigan Hospital, where she is listed in critical condition.

The 19-year-old VBT resident, who was a second passenger in the Pontiac G6, was fatally injured in the accident.

The driver of the Trailblazer was treated at the scene and transported by HVA to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital where he was evaluated and discharged. A 55-year-old Ypsilanti resident, who was a passenger in the Trailblazer, was treated at the scene and transported by HVA to St. Joseph Mercy

(continued on page 8)

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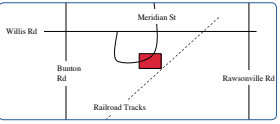
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13th Annual Report to Taxpayers

Van Buren Township 2020 Employee Wages & Actual Cost

Elected Officials

	Wages	Compensation
Elected Officials		
McNamara, Kevin	\$90,976.28	\$116,323.24
Wright, Leon	\$87,486.28	\$130,451.27
Budd, Sharry	\$87,386.28	\$113,951.49
Boynton, Donald	\$468.39	\$560.43
Frazier, Sherry	\$16,834.45	\$23,322.18
Martin, Kevin	\$16,834.45	\$23,322.18
Miller, Regina	\$16,834.45	\$23,182.02
White, Paul	\$16,366.06	\$37,455.23
Assessing		
Stevenson, Linda	\$84,926.58	\$122,098.58
Dorazio, Gina	\$46,032.32	\$80,494.91
Board of Review		
Roesch III, Harry	\$600.00	\$645.90
Young, Penny	\$600.00	\$645.90
Boyer, Kevin	\$540.00	\$547.83
Jensen, Juanita	\$480.00	\$516.72
Building Dept.		
Best, Matthew	\$90,475.77	\$127,174.30
Fields, Judy	\$87,606.99	\$125,280.31
Schlutow, Kristopher	\$63,362.29	\$94,291.66
Power, Daniel	\$69,609.92	\$84,768.20
Grishaber, Tina	\$52,381.39	\$71,759.32
Murphy, Deanna	\$32,079.62	\$43,593.46
Halstead, Anna	\$2,048.54	\$4,089.65
Building/Grounds		
Jenkins, Kirk A	\$59,227.10	\$96,376.60
Cochenour, Jonathon	\$58,501.97	\$90,060.34
Burgor, Michael	\$55,584.58	\$81,319.28
Esch, Charles	\$59,623.09	\$78,173.33
Drotar, Ryan	\$59,128.52	\$77,581.57
Taylor, Gerald	\$42,191.04	\$65,152.91
Miller, Patty	\$42,588.34	\$57,794.97
Clerk's Office		
Montgomery, Joanne	\$82,884.82	\$106,535.37
Towles, Carol	\$74,669.08	\$96,661.31
Tyler, Karen	\$48,940.36	\$77,126.18
Hubbard, Donae	\$37,855.70	\$46,751.66
Communications		
Albrecht, Alysha	\$54,038.66	\$79,504.93
Nichols, Ryan	\$55,088.28	\$72,782.77
Laeder, Tyler	\$1,667.50	\$1,795.06
Shafer, Devin	\$1,625.00	\$1,749.31
DDA		
Ireland, Susan	\$89,643.77	\$116,611.96
Lothringer, Lisa M	\$60,040.66	\$97,391.37
IT		
Rankin, Steve L	\$87,269.36	\$113,766.96
Dandy, Kenneth	\$66,874.07	\$98,816.90
Sabin, Joel S	\$63,554.47	\$85,276.95
Museum		
Dallos, Kathryn	\$20,516.88	\$33,799.15
Parks		
Nicholson III, Earvin	\$20,709.58	\$22,293.86
Haney, Marcus	\$19,693.26	\$21,199.79
Villa, Samuel	\$14,119.31	\$15,199.44
Campbell, Freddie	\$4,151.11	\$4,468.67
Recreation		
Wright, Jennifer	\$60,074.58	\$90,701.59
Price, Jennifer L	\$50,637.60	\$79,221.79
Zaenglein, Jennifer	\$43,265.02	\$70,436.56
Zantop, Kendyl	\$19,452.57	\$24,879.96
Wall, Sydney	\$14,054.05	\$15,129.18

Compiled by Diane Madigan.

**One Call Does It All . . .
 . . . At the Independent
 699-9020**

(continued on page 17)

OPINIONS

Editorial

We're learning a lot with virtual meetings, classes

Before COVID, many thought it was a bit strange to see the pictures of people walking down the street in China wearing face masks. Now we all know about masks and many wear them. Our streets look just like the Chinese streets now.

Meetings of governmental and social bodies were suspended at the beginning of the pandemic when nobody went anywhere. Soon meetings and school classes resumed via the internet.

Many didn't think they could handle the Zoom and Google and other seemingly complicated virtual gatherings, but, somehow, after repeated use, it's old stuff.

The sessions at 34th District Court are by Zoom, shown on U Tube, and the lawyers are getting the process down pat. They are in the courtroom from their home offices or from their cars. Some of those smart lawyers have had a hard time learning the process, but they are coming along.

Their clients, however, are sometimes confused. They are talking to the judge through their phones, but don't seem to realize the judge can see them, what they are wearing, and where they are.

Last week Judge Green admonished a man who was in bed while discussing his court case, with his head leaning against the wooden headboard. She asked him to get out of bed and sit up straight when in court.

We've been given a swift kick into the future by this virus and technology.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

On Feb. 2 we received an email from a reader saying Sumpter Fire Department responded to smoke in a house in the 40000 block of Willis Road. It was caused by a furnace filter being restricted – “1 of 3.” No injuries. “A reminder to all of us to check our furnace filters(s).”

A man who lives in Belleville Manor, the mobile home park on Belleville Road just north of Tyler, called on Friday to say he saw the letter in the paper about the person with a post office box not getting her face mask from Van Buren Township.

He said residents of his neighborhood didn't get any, either. He said he saw the story in the paper about all residents getting masks and he was waiting for his mask.

“We aren't considered residents?” he asked.

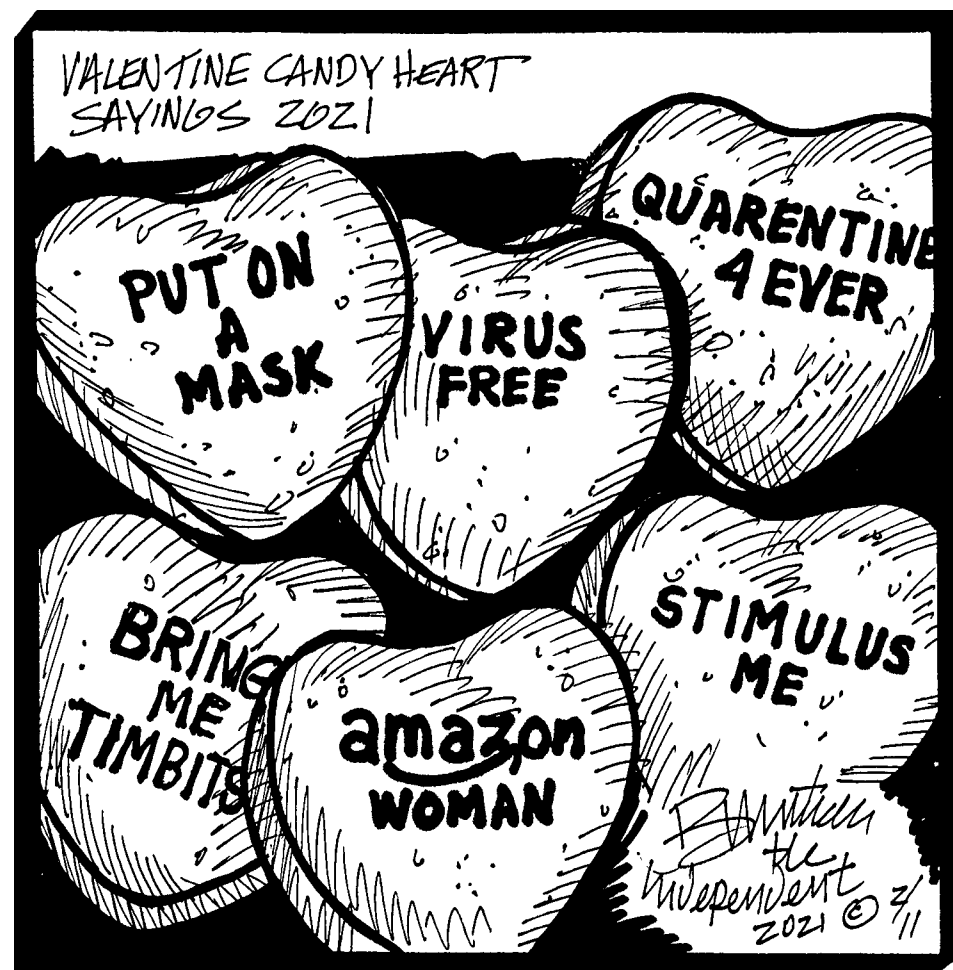
I told him Supervisor Kevin McNamara had said at a meeting a few days earlier that they were going to take the masks to the apartment complexes and hand them out rather than mail them there. I suggested they may be doing that to the mobile home communities, as well.

Hope he gets a mask.

We received a one-sentence letter to the editor that wishes to be signed Anonymous: “Why are we taxpayers paying school taxes when our kids are at home and our schools closed?”

We've heard that question asked many times by others.

That same reader then emailed again, adding the following comment: “The same applies to our Comcast service charges: Why are we paying extra, month



after month, for a Technician to come to our houses and make repairs to either our tv's, telephone, or computers when the company's technicians are NOT available and CANNOT enter our homes?”

Barry Robinson of Sumpter Township sent us an email on Monday, voicing concern about the seniors and others in the township that might need a warming center since it is so cold.

He included the message he sent to Township Supervisor Ken Bowman, the township board and others:

“Supervisor Bowman, why is the gym not open for residents seeking a warming shelter as a result of this very extreme and increasing cold weather that we are experiencing? We have many vulnerable citizens that need help/warmth. Everyone does not have computers or phones that gives warnings that are issued from the police dept. We had this ‘no care’ problem last summer when it was extremely Hot. Let's call it like it is. It seems the township does not care about its residents.”

Deputy Treasurer Toni Clark has suggested a digital sign in front of the community center to announce things including “heating center open” or “cooling center open.” The board agreed and the township is now looking into the cost of such a sign.

Please be sure to give us the correct names for those you want on the birthday

list. A man called in on Monday and told Janet everyone will know who “Church Lucille” is. Her birthday is Feb. 12.

No, it is not going on the birthday list because that is not her name and, no, everybody does not know who that is. We need real names, please.

At Monday's school board meeting, there was a long explanation of how the district will be handling snow days. It was pretty confusing. In the middle of it, Supt. Kudlak noted that Owen Intermediate School was closed on Monday, but not as a snow day. It had a plumbing issue.

Keystone Academy also held its regular board meeting on Monday virtually, just before the Van Buren board meeting.

Keystone announced starting this year it would have no snow days. If there was a storm or loss of electricity or something else, the students would move to virtual learning, rather than having to make up days in the summer.

Andrew Roth of National Heritage Academies said a lot of money has been spent on computers for all the students, “a fairly massive project,” and switching to remote would work fine.





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Letters

Make the big pot businesses pay a lot

To the editor:

Re: Sellers remorse

Let me start with saying that both my wife and I voted against the marijuana proposal that threatens to literally tear our town in two. That said, here is my 2 cents worth about the school system's quandary on selling the school property, knowing it is going to be used for drug manufacturing and sales.

We deserve what we got. We were blindsided by the out-of-state drug pushers (lobby groups) that sold our city a damaged bill of sales.

All one has to do is look at the Western states that were driven to allow sales in their states and were tempted by big tax dollars, that when the gravel dropped, just weren't there. All the little pot companies were forced out of businesses on taxes and fees that made making a profit impossible.

When you break down the costs of enforcement of rules and laws now added to the books, fees of all kinds, new kinds of city planning regulations, additional personnel for city, county and state, the legal system and police forces, manpower will explode, until the sales grow to a steady state.

The only way a marijuana-rich tax system will work, is if we embrace and enlarge the sales area to allow unlimited growth. Thank the god(s) our town is limited in size. So, for our town to make the most of this situation is to make the most we can, before the aura fades away. We have no choice in the rules, they were voted in; however, we don't have to make it easy, and most of all, cheap.

Again, I am against the whole concept. What I am saying, is if we are going to let this happen, make it worth our time. The businesses that want in on this cash crop, let them pay, and pay dearly. They know this is a money tree, so only the strong will survive.

Mom and pop pot shops are already crying about the fees; tough luck, business is not pretty, nor easy. If you are going to be a burden on society, legally, you will pay for the price of admission. This is not bit-coin. Businesses need to be accountable for all the trappings any other business has to pay to play.

Now for the 800-lb. gorilla in the room: the school property. Big businesses have already sniffed it out. Let them pay the price. Start the bidding at \$3 million. They know what they can afford, so let them pay the price for admission. Since this is a one-time buy, make the most you can for the property. Don't buckle. The adage of buy low and sell high is known to the businesses. That is why they try to turn small cities into the new Wild Wild West. Don't feel any mercy for them because they are only looking to fleece our community for the money they plan to take from this

area.

Crying for the loss of the purity of the school versus marihuana is a lost cause. The cat is out of the bag. We now have to deal with what society wants and has voted for. Lawyers need to find and create loopholes to prevent any further expansion and inclusions into our small-town ways. There is no good in the laws as they have been presented. So let's make them pay and pay they will. We have no idea how much they spent to make the push here in Belleville, but I am quite sure it's far more than a mere \$3 million start-in bidding for school property. Make the b*****s pay, and pay dearly.

Bob Balderston
Pot-ville

It's time to sign up for 2021 Little League

To the editor:

Registration for the 2021 spring season of the Van Buren Area Little League is now open and runs until March 15.

We hope that all of you are as excited as we are to get the children back on the diamond this spring after a very long absence.

The Van Buren Area Little League has some COVID protocols in place to ensure the safety of the players, coaches, volunteers, and parents. You can read these protocols on our website at <http://www.vanburenarealittleleague.org>.

You can also register your son or daughter for baseball or softball on the same website.

Let's bring spring in with a bang! And "play ball."

Marc Littleton, president
Van Buren Area Little League

Library closed until further notice: Staff member has COVID

The Belleville Area District Library in downtown Belleville, along with its Sumpter Township Media Center, are closed until further notice, according to a posting on its website over the weekend.

The posting said: "In accordance with our COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, the BADL will be closed until further notice in response to a reported case of COVID-19 on our staff."

On Monday, Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said they are waiting to make sure no one else is infected. If all goes well, they will reopen on Monday, Feb. 15.

The library board held its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9, via Zoom.

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More Letters

Meijer selects Food Closet for 'Simply Give'

To the editor:

Since 1983 the Emergency Food Closet housed at the Belleville First United Methodist Church located at 417 Charles St. has been feeding the hungry in Sumpter and Van Buren Townships and the City of Belleville.

It has served as an emergency source of food for those that have lost a job, been injured, are ill, or are temporarily unemployed; for our seniors, veterans, and disabled who do not have enough food or income to last through the month.

The Emergency Food Closet is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. No one is ever turned away! Everyone receives food on his/her first visit. To continue to receive food, one will need to bring a Michigan driver's license or State ID; proof of residency (rent receipt, tax bill, utility bill); and a referral from the Salvation Army, Community Care Services, the Department of Health and Human Services, a school, or a pastor.

The Emergency Food Closet is entirely dependent upon donations from the community: individuals, churches, and local businesses. In 2020, the Emergency Food Closet has been blessed with food and monetary donations from local churches, businesses, and community residents.

We served 162 families with 96 of these new clients. 49% were aged 60+. This January, an additional 11 new clients were helped and 105 bags of food were distributed.

Meijer has selected our food closet to partner with their winter *Simply Give Campaign* at the Belleville Meijer store located at 9701 Belleville Rd. and runs from Feb. 14 through April 10. This is the Emergency Food Closet's biggest fundraiser and helps provide food for our

shelves.

The campaign has two Double-Match Days – March 13 and April 3. On these two days, Meijer will double what one donates on the card. If one buys a \$10 card, Meijer will donate \$20, for a total donation of \$30. The cards are available at the end of each cashier check-out lane.

Thank you for helping the Emergency Food Closet feed the hungry in our community!

Marilyn Wood

Coordinator – Emergency Food Closet
Belleville First United Methodist Church

Andrew Jerome, Thomas Dylewski get all A's at Univ. of Alabama

Andrew Jerome of Belleville and Thomas Dylewski of Van Buren Township have been named to the President's List for the fall 2020 term at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

The President's List is awarded to students with academic records of 4.0 (all A's).

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Obituaries



Edward Henry Steinman

EDWARD HENRY STEINMAN

Edward Henry Steinman, a Coast Guard veteran of WWII, died suddenly on January 21, 2021, at the age of 97. He lived his entire life with fierce independence, determination, honesty, and integrity. He was generous, kind, and smart. Born in Wyandotte, MI in 1924, he grew up to marry his high school sweetheart, Virginia Herrmann (Shelley's mother), and was embraced by the Herrmann family. Virginia died in August 1950.

In June of 1953, he married a widow, Edith Todd, with 3 children of her own: Mark, Paul, and Nancy. They blended their family together, built a home, and along came Claire. They both enjoyed long teaching careers in Belleville, MI. Edward started out as a math teacher. He retired as Director of Guidance at Belleville High School, with two master's degrees. Years after retirement, many students still corresponded with him.

He liked to read and fish (once in his later years, fishing with a good friend off a bridge from his car). He golfed well into his 80s and ran the Men's League at Gaylord Country Club for many years. He was fond of college football, basketball, and baseball. U of M was his favorite. He liked to watch Little League championships and got a kick out of players trying to spit. He liked to carve and was often studying to lead the Men's Group discussions at the First United Methodist Church in Gaylord. He gave all five kids the experience of college. He and Edith retired to Gaylord in 1977, to the home they built and loved on Dixon Lake. He could build anything. Mechanical engines were easy to him, although electronics baffled him a bit. He made many friends and cared about them.

As he aged, Edward faced many physical challenges, including the loss of his hearing and voice. With typical determination, he still found ways to communicate and get around. Thumbs up was a good sign. He resolutely endured this last year of quarantine, visiting with friends and family through a patio door.

Edward is survived by his children Mark (Carol) Todd, Dr. Paul (Ginni) Todd, Nancy (Tim) O'Connor, Shelley Habermas, and Claire (Craig) Andersen; as well as seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; his sister Sally Dennis; and brother-in-law, Eugene "Jake" Grahl. We will miss him dearly.

The family hopes to plan a memorial service in the spring or summer. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church online at <https://www.fumcgaylordmi.org/give> or by mailing your donation to Gaylord First United Methodist Church, PO BOX 617, Gaylord, MI 49734. Arrangements were entrusted to Nelson Funeral Home & Cremation Service, PO Box 1548, Gaylord, MI 49734.

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MARIA MILLY AKOR

(March 10, 1964 - January 19, 2021)

Age 56, of Ypsilanti Township, died of COVID-19. Born in Nigeria. Survived by husband Mounde Akor; children Enne, Cynthia, Blessing, Samuel, Grace, Emmanuel; 2 grandchildren; 2 siblings. David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

CHARLES E. KNOX

(August 2, 1975 - February 4, 2021)

Age 45, of Willis, MI. Lincoln High School Class of 1993. Self-employed truck driver. Survived by six siblings: James, Kenneth, John, Wendy, Linda, David. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home.

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KATIE EVELYN RILEY

(October 25, 1988 - February 2, 2021)

Age 32, of Van Buren Township. Survived by fiancé; parents David & Kristy Riley, Cody Riley; 2 grandmothers; 1 great-grandmother. Visitation at noon Feb. 13 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, with memorial service at 1 p.m.

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COVID-19 death total in 48111 remains 58, positive tests at 2,107

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code remained at 58 over the week ending Monday, Feb. 8.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 were 2,107 on Monday, Feb. 8, up from 2,078 the previous Monday, Feb. 1.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the separate numbers released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 1,375 positive cases, 30 deaths; City of Belleville, 373 positive cases, 21 deaths; and Sumpter Township 359 positive cases, 7 deaths.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Tuesday, Feb. 16** – Forgotten Harvest Free Food Give Away runs from 2 to 4:30 p.m., or while supplies last, every Tuesday at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd. Volunteers will load fresh groceries into the vehicle of anyone in need.

• **Tuesday, Feb. 16** – Forgotten Harvest Food Give Away at noon every Tuesday until further notice at Romulus High School, 9650 S. Wayne Rd. Sponsored by Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans and hosted by Romulus Community School District. Information: Virginia Williams, (734) 673-8396

• **Thursday, Feb. 18** – GriefShare begins its 13-week support group at 6 p.m. at the Five Points Church, corner of Goddard Road and Huron River Drive in Romulus. More information at www.griefshare.org.

• **Sunday, March 7** – Bugles Across America at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial on High Street in Belleville. Brief ceremony monthly to honor veterans in service, retired, and passed on. "Taps" is played and "National Anthem" sung.

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Dingell collecting Valentines for vets, frontline workers

With Valentine's Day just a few days away, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI) encouraged local students to participate in the "Valentines for Veterans" project by making handmade valentine cards for local veterans and frontline workers.

Since 2015, students across the region created hundreds of cards to show veterans how much they are loved and appreciated. In recognition of the bravery of frontline

workers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Dingell expanded recipients to include law enforcement, health care providers, and first responders this year.

"In the midst of a pandemic that has upended our daily lives, a simple gesture of love and kindness can change a life, especially for those who have served our nation and kept us safe during this pandemic," said Dingell. "For Valentine's Day, I invite all students to join us in showing our veterans, health care workers, and first responders how much we appreciate their service and sacrifice."

The cards will be delivered on Valentine's Day to the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, the Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles Ann Arbor VA, and local law enforcement departments, health care facilities, and first responders.

Those who wish to participate may call Dingell's Michigan Dearborn office at (313) 278-2936 to arrange for pickup.

After "Valentines for Veterans" received such an overwhelming response from veterans, schools and the community, in 2015 Dingell launched the year-round

"Sending Smiles to Vets" program, which engages young people on an ongoing basis to create cards and artwork for veterans. The program celebrates various seasons and holidays, including Independence Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.



Feb. 12 – Nora Hemphill, Tina McGlynn
Feb. 15 – Lynn Hammond
Feb. 16 – Chris Whitt
Feb. 17 – Pat Cook, Gabe Rehahn-Bonior
Feb. 18 – Scott Graham
Feb. 19 – Anna Cinnamon, Bernie McManus
Feb. 20 – Bob Stoner
Feb. 22 – Alan Schimming

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.

Fatal accident

(continued from page 1)

Hospital where she is listed in serious condition.

The VBT Accident Investigation Team was called to the scene to conduct a follow-up investigation, collect data, and secure physical evidence. Belleville Road was closed to traffic between Ecorse and Robson roads for more than four hours, reopening around 11:22 p.m.

The accident remains under investigation and anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Dale Harrison or Lt. Kenneth Floro at (734) 699-8930.

At Monday's Zoom meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, School Supt. Pete Kudlak said the district is reeling from the accident.

He said one of their present students was driving and a 2020 Belleville High School graduate lost his life.

"It is a sad day in the district," Supt. Kudlak said.

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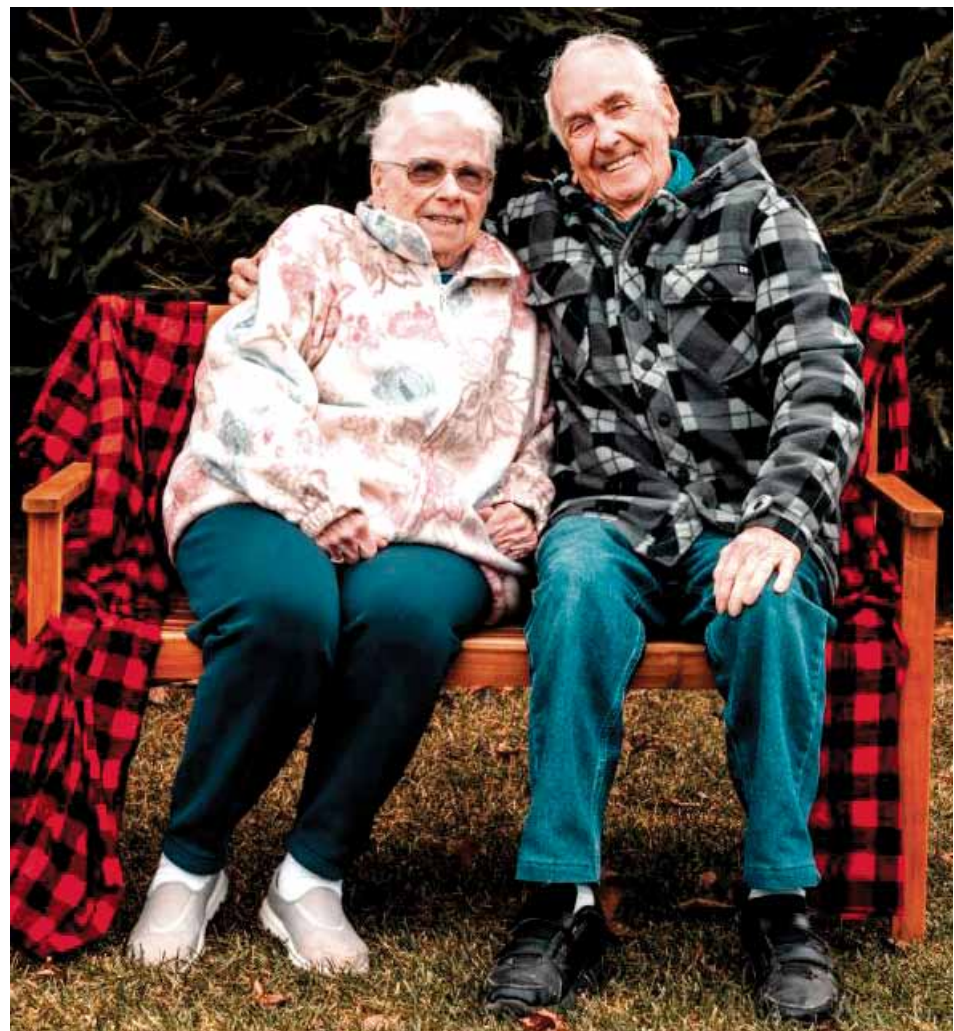
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Gordon and Ann Runyon

Gordon, Ann Runyon to celebrate 70th wedding anniversary on Feb. 13

Gordon and Ann Runyon of Belleville were married in 1951 and will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on Feb. 13.

The couple has six children, 14 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

The two started dating in 1946 when they lived in Dearborn. After getting married, in 1956 they moved to Belleville and have lived in the same home ever since.

Gordon worked as a welder at Hydra Matic and retired in 1982. Ann worked at Kmart for three years.

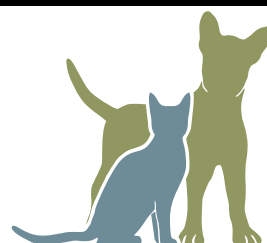
For 25 years they were snowbirds, residing in Kissimmee, Florida, during the winter months.

When asked what the secret to 70 years of marriage is, Gordon said, "Knowing someone is always right, and it is not you!" Ann replied: "Finding the right woman!"

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VB School Board decides not to sell nine acres for pot shop

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

After the Jan. 25 Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education meeting where there was much discussion about whether to consider selling nine acres on Sumpter Road that was sure to be used for a pot shop, a survey was taken of parents and staff.

At Monday's regular meeting of the school board, School Supt. Pete Kudlak reported that in the survey 73.6% of the parents and staff said the district should sell the property even if it is sure to be used in the marijuana industry.

But, after a brief discussion, the board took no action to put the property back up for sale and moved on to other business.

Supt. Kudlak explained the background. The property had been put up for sale for \$750,000 when the plan was to replace the warehouse on the property with a new warehouse on part of the property purchased from St. Anthony Catholic Church, next to the high school.

But, plans changed when the early childhood development site was moved on that property and the warehouse would no longer fit there. The property was taken off the market at that point.

But after voters in the City of Belleville approved two questions on the Nov. 3 ballot that allowed the marijuana industry to operate in the city, it also had to lay out overlay zoning for these businesses and the school's property at 414-420 Sumpter Rd. was in that district.

While there had been little interest in the property while it had been up for sale, Kudlak said the district has been receiving a lot of interest over the past few weeks and they needed to decide whether they want to list it again, with the understanding that a marijuana facility will most likely purchase it.

There had been a casual offer of \$1.6 million to buy the property that had been for sale for a reduced price of \$650,000 when it was taken off the market.

Kudlak said he and James Williams, Director of Buildings and Grounds, talked it over and he said if they sell it for \$1.6 million, they would have to begin looking

for a place to have a warehouse. They could put it on property they own at the former Elwell School or at Haggerty School or Owen School. Now the estimated cost to build a warehouse is \$900,000, so they would have some money left over that could be used to help with replacement of the football field turf or the track, he said.

"We're not really hurting for money and we could sell it later," Kudlak said. The property is walkable to the high school and the nine acres could become valuable to them again, he said.

"James and I recommend keeping the property," Kudlak said, referring to Williams.

Board President Amy Peace said she didn't have a problem with selling it, but wanted to do what Kudlak and Williams thought would be best. This is not the right time, she said.

Secretary Darlene Gerick said the existing warehouse does need work. She asked how much sinking fund money needs to be used there.

"We're working on that right now," Williams replied, adding it would be substantially less than the \$900,000 for a new building. He said they need minimal repairs and some parking lot work. He said he would share it with the board when the estimate is complete.

"Nothing imminent," Kudlak assured them.

"No need for major repairs right now," Williams agreed.

"We can move forward with the demolition and just hold on to the property," President Pearce said, referring to the approved demolition of the buildings at the front of the property.

Trustee Kelly Owen asked if by putting the sale on hold and then deciding to sell it, could they be missing out on the present offers?

Kudlak said he recommends not listing it now, but if they find the warehouse needs

more work than thought, they could sell it later. He suggested they find a place for the warehouse first before selling the present warehouse property. They could take the time to fix up the property selected before having to move.

"Sell it and then can't find a place to move is in the wrong order," Kudlak said.

Pearce said that Owen was right and the district is missing out on a high amount for the property.

"We may find a use for the property and be glad we still have it," Pearce said, suggesting a place for soccer fields as an example.

"Or, robotics," Kudlak said.

Treasurer Simone Pinter said she was not in favor of having "a drug store." She spoke at length at the Jan. 25 meeting in opposition to the sale.

It was pointed out the \$1.6 million offer was not in writing.

"Doesn't mean we'd get \$1.6 million," Kudlak said.

"Some things just aren't worth the money," Pinter said.

Pearce said if there is no action taken by the board, "it goes away."

Kudlak said if it ever comes up again, the Facilities Committee will look into it and make a recommendation.

In other business at Monday's one-hour-and-42-minute meeting, the board:

- Learned that Jean Smith was selected as the new assistant principal at Owen Intermediate School as of Jan. 25 to replace Andrew Lindsay who resigned for another job opportunity. Smith said she has been with the district for 21 years. Abdul Madyun, Human Resources Director, said 200 people applied for the position;

- Approved the resignation of Janet Blanton at Tyler Elementary as of Jan. 20 after 26 years of service;

- Discussed the monthly reconfirming of the COVID-19 plan, as required by the state. There was a slight change. In

January the district was still remote and returned Jan. 19. At the end of the semester some changed from remote to in-person with about 200 K-12 students returning in person. Pearce "shouted out" to the transportation department for all the work preparing for the 200 extra kids;

- Discussed the Extended COVID-19 Plan Progress Report where the NWEA measures the growth in math and reading between fall and the middle of the school year and then at the end. Curriculum Director Jeff Moore said for this year and last year "the data is tricky" because of the students learning in a remote environment from home. "We don't know how accurate the data is ... but it gives us a way to compare and see if they met or exceed growth in reading and math," he said. Scores in achievement for all students were 44.27% in reading and 46.88% in math;

- Approved the union agreement with the Van Buren Administrators and Supervisors Association as presented by Madyun. He said the contract expired in December and there had been pay freezes for the last few years. He said the pay scale for the last few years had been low for administrators, with the salaries low but degrees counting, influencing employees to earn several degrees. He said it was hard to compare VB salaries to other groups. This agreement removes the educational stipends for administrators and puts that money on a new scale, with a 2% raise they feel is competitive. Owen pointed out the top seven on the list got a \$4,000 raise and the bottom seven got their salary cut \$465 for the year. "That would make me angry," she said. Kudlak said they are losing the educational bonus and this is the way to make it work. Board vice president Susan Featheringill said the \$4,000 is based on a new salary schedule and they will not get \$4,000 more than last year, just that on the salary scale. Madyun said they had to do

(continued on page 11)

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VBPS

(continued from page 10)

“funny math to make it work.” He said it’s “different and unique” and “we came up with what worked ... VBASA gave up money to make it work...” Featheringill said the board should have received a copy of the new salary schedule and Madyun apologized;

- Discussed the School Board Operating Procedures and made suggestions to change the wording in several ways before it is before them for a vote at the next meeting;

- Was presented with background

information on candidates for the Michigan Association of School Board of Directors. The Van Buren board will vote at its next meeting. Van Buren is in Region 8 and there are four people running, none from Wayne County;

- Heard Kudlak explain how the district will be handling snow days. He said the district is allowed six snow days and there are only district snow days. If a snow day is taken and a second snow day is expected remote students would have school, but the district would still have two days. He said if they get close to the six days and they know a snowstorm is coming, they could tell the teachers it would be a snow day and teachers can go home with all the materials necessary to teach from home. “Calling it a snow day at 6 a.m. is not fair,” Kudlak said; and

- Heard that Angela Mears asked virtually how many kids wanted to switch from remote to in-person and couldn’t and Kudlak replied it was 30 in K-8.

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Court Watching:

Preliminary exam for Egypt’s murder case reset to March 22, 23, 25

By Rosemary K. Otzman

Independent Editor

During a special court session on Jan. 25 to discuss court logistics and a defense attorney’s objection to the protection order on the evidence, 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green said the preliminary exam for the three defendants in the Egypt Covington murder case has been reset for March.

Judge Green said there was an issue with getting all the defendants and their attorneys to the live exam planned to begin Feb. 22, so alternative dates were set for Monday, March 22; Tuesday, March, 23; and, if it runs into three days, Thursday, March 25. She said everyone involved was good with these new dates. They want to start early, so 8 or 8:30 a.m. will be considered.

She said the next probable cause conference in the case had been set for 11 a.m., Feb. 10, and they could set another conference before the exam, if needed.

Judge Green said the voluminous paper and electronic investigative reports from the Michigan State Police and Van Buren Township Police will be sent immediately to defense attorney Coral Watt, after Watt agreed to the protective order.

Watt, who is defending Shane Lamar Evans of Sumpter Township, filed an objection to the protection order on the discovery and so the evidence had not been sent to her.

Prosecutor Victoria Shackelford said she had asked for a protective order for all the discovery to protect dissemination. She said she and Watt met and did attempt to solve their problem without getting the court involved but were unsuccessful.

Judge Green, who had offered to meet with them, if necessary, called them to the special session on Jan. 25.

Prosecutor Shackelford said this is an open investigation and others are under investigation and may be arraigned. She also said all three defendants are related in some manner – stepbrothers, cousins.

She said intense media attention has been given to the case and that is expected to continue. The prosecution did not want the details getting out by social media. She did not want people not part of the case to have the details and wanted to protect the information.

Watt said there was a misunderstanding. She did not want to disseminate the written or digital information to a third party, but she wanted to be able to discuss certain aspects of the case with her client’s family members.

She objected to the blanket protective order. She said she did not wish to divulge the identity of witnesses or those being investigated.

“There are lots of ways to do this,” Watt said. “This is overboard.”

“I don’t know what these items are because I don’t have any discovery. The court could have done a temporary order,” she said.

Judge Green said in order for them to release the discovery to her without a protective order, they would have to redact thousands and thousands of pages of discovery and that is an undue burden of the prosecution.

“I will grant Ms. Shackelford’s protective order motion as of today” [for defendant Evans], said Judge Green.

Judge Green said she already granted Shackelford’s protective order for the first two defendants – Timothy Moore and Shandon Groom – and if there are issues Watt wants to discuss with the parents, they can talk about it off the record at the Feb. 10 court session.

Judge Green said they could carve out exceptions as relief from the protective order.

The hard drive provided by Watt to Shackelford already is loaded with the large amount of discovery and would be made available since Watt had verbally agreed to the order.

The details of the logistics for getting

(continued on page 14)

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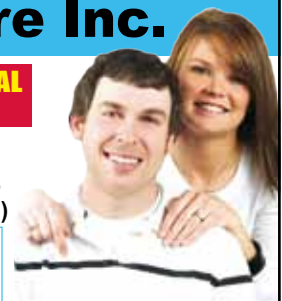
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Thank you to Belleville Church of God on

Hull Road behind the Van Buren Township Fire Station for renewing its weekly listing in our church directory. Belleville Church of God offers Bible studies each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, along with Zoe Kids, children's classes, and clubs. Regular services are Sunday at 11 a.m. The worship services are also streamed live on Facebook and on the church's website at www.bellevillecog.online.church. Call (734) 697-0927. The cost is \$75 to have your church or worship center listed weekly in a 1-column-wide by 1-inch-tall box for 13 weeks. To learn more, call me at (734) 699 9020.

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Those of you who are waiting, (including me) for the new Doc's Ice Cream & Coffee cafe in the former location of Gibbs Sweet Shop in Downtown New Boston to open, mark Thursday, Feb. 18, on your calendar. Doc's Ice Cream & Coffee is named in honor of Dr. Joseph Richert who served the families of Huron Township and the area for more than 45 years. The Richert family bought the corner building after the bridge closed when the Gibbs Station didn't re-open and went up for sale and they've been working on the place ever since. The business has been totally remodeled nostalgically from the new front street windows to a new patio and deck that is now ADA accessible. I enjoyed watching a painted mural go up last fall on the Huron River side along the upper wall as you come in from over the bridge. Doc's has also begun revealing their menu offerings via Facebook and on their website at www.letsmeetatdocs.com. They've partnered with New Order Coffee Roasters of Detroit, too. Expect to find gluten-free and dairy-free treats. Visit and like them on Facebook and Instagram.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020. There is no cost to be in this column.

VBT, Belleville send out Nixle alerts on water meter attempted fraud

According to a Nixle alert sent out by Van Buren Township police on Feb. 4, and the city of Belleville police on Feb. 5, water customers of neighboring townships have received fraudulent e-mails telling them that their water meters needed to be replaced and that they needed to pay \$450.

In the coming months Van Buren Township WILL BE replacing residential water meters but WILL NOT be charging residents for the new meters.

Also, the city of Belleville is in the process of replacing residential water meters but WILL NOT be charging residents for the new meters.

If VBT residents receive an invoice or email asking them to pay for a new water meter, they are asked to report it to Van Buren Township's Public Safety Department by calling (734) 699-8930.

Those getting such communication in the city of Belleville are asked to report it to the Belleville Police Department at (734) 699-2395 or (734) 699-2396.

GriefShare to begin 13-week group at Romulus 5 Pts. Church

Community members who have experienced the death of a family member or friend are invited to register for the 13-week seminar/support group GriefShare at 5 Points Church.

The church, located at 37300 Goddard Rd. at Huron River Drive in Romulus, has been offering this program since 2005.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a loved one no matter what the cause of death. This is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling.

This nondenominational program features Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was seen on the DVD.

GriefShare will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday evenings from Feb. 18 to May 13 with different DVDs each meeting. Registration is \$15 which includes a workbook and weekly handouts.

There will be social distancing and masks are required. More information may be found at www.griefshare.org.

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Court watching

(continued from page 11)

the three defendants to the courtroom was discussed. Judge Green said it would be worked out for them to be delivered from the Wayne County Jail to the courthouse by separate means so they are kept separate.

She said they may ask for one to be delivered to the court in the jail van and ask the Michigan State Police to provide two troopers in two separate cars to deliver the other two.

Judge Green said there will be problems placing people around the courtroom due to social distancing rules. She said the only ones allowed in the courthouse will be the defendants, their attorneys, the officer in charge, and a witness to be called. She suggested one defendant and attorney could sit in the jury box and the other two defendants and their attorneys at far ends of the courtroom from each other. Everyone will be masked up, she said.

"I'll see everybody Feb. 10," Judge Green said. "If there are any other issues, let me know."

The three defendants are being held without bond in the Wayne County Jail for murder charges in the June 22, 2017 shooting death of Egypt Covington in her Van Buren Township home. The death was investigated by Van Buren Township police at first and then, last summer, was turned over to the Michigan State Police at the insistent request of some family members.

Joe Stafford

Joe Stafford, 55, of Powder Springs, GA, was due for his probable cause conference

at 11 a.m. Jan. 27 before Judge Brian Oakley on a charge of bank robbery in the city of Belleville on Nov. 7.

He is in the Wayne County Jail on bond of \$10,000/10% and on Jan. 27 the Sheriff's Department was unable to put him on a Zoom hookup for the 34th District Court because it said it was too busy with Zoom hookups for the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, which took precedence over district court.

After waiting 45 minutes and a report that it would be much longer, Judge Oakley adjourned the probable cause conference for a week to 11 a.m., Feb. 3 for "logistical problem."

But on Feb. 3, the jail advised the court that Stafford was in a 10-14-day quarantine on his floor. He didn't have COVID, but he was quarantined. Judge Oakley adjourned his probable cause conference again, this time to March 3.

Stafford is also being tried in 35th District Court for bank robbery on Nov. 5 in Canton Township. He was scheduled for his Zoom probable cause conference on the charge on Feb. 5 before Judge Michael Gerou and his preliminary exam on Feb. 12 before Judge Ronald Lowe.

On Feb. 5, Judge Gerou was advised that Stafford had been exposed to COVID in Division 2 of the Wayne County Jail and is in lockdown. His probable cause conference was adjourned to March 19.

The bond on the Canton Township charge is \$250,000/10% and the bond was continued.

(continued on page 15)



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	Wages	Total Compensation						
ELECTED OFFICIALS			WATER DEPT.					
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Bowman, Timothy	\$2,042.22	\$2,042.22	Krushlin, John	\$84,290.96	\$94,215.49	Myers, Kenneth	\$8,857.57	\$9,716.88
Hurst, Esther	\$18,807.40	\$19,388.95	Kunka, Kenneth	\$70,847.47	\$92,854.43	Thompson, Walter	\$9,361.33	\$9,650.75
Clark, James	\$1,715.37	\$1,741.89	Lynch, Randy	\$69,721.61	\$95,249.16	Kruslin, John	\$8,932.95	\$9,278.36
Laporte, Don	\$8,405.64	\$8,649.44	Petrowski, Michael	\$68,596.56	\$96,711.38	Ingle, Sonya	\$8,558.33	\$8,822.91
Morgan, Peggy	\$788.45	\$800.64	Linville, John	\$44,208.45	\$51,152.56	Blackburn, Brian	\$8,028.23	\$8,807.08
Oddy, Matthew	\$8,405.64	\$8,649.44	Winter, Anna	\$39,888.99	\$54,735.50	Scott, Rachel	\$8,680.52	\$8,680.52
Rush, Timothy	\$8,405.64	\$8,649.44	POLICE DEPT.			Krushlin, Jamie	\$8,379.84	\$8,638.92
Swinson, Donald	\$8,405.64	\$8,629.12	Luke, Eric	\$114,998.22	\$166,821.81	Landskroener, Richard	\$6,630.06	\$6,732.56
SUPERVISORS OFFICE			Gannon, Patrick	\$98,824.82	\$153,958.40	Combs, Benjamin	\$6,183.01	\$6,278.59
Armatis, Karen	\$79,221.76	\$112,239.14	Toth, John	\$95,976.94	\$146,872.96	Brown, Richard	\$4,766.64	\$4,840.34
Woodington, Karen	\$44,789.51	\$69,477.31	Cayce, James	\$91,572.62	\$124,011.08	Behrendt, David	\$4,197.31	\$4,604.51
ACCOUNTING			Steffani, Brian	\$90,779.35	\$132,753.94	Goode, Jamie	\$3,432.54	\$3,490.79
Bardell, Roxanne	\$43,422.83	\$66,268.72	Balowski, Joseph	\$86,809.81	\$122,456.69	Laporte, Donald	\$3,221.35	\$3,389.98
CLERKS OFFICE			Egerer, Elizabeth	\$82,946.28	\$124,190.78	Jackson, Joseph	\$2,752.65	\$2,795.21
Anthony, Burdick	\$56,630.97	\$92,346.54	Toney, Kenneth	\$80,791.47	\$105,245.36	Long, Eric	\$2,088.75	\$2,224.54
Hadyniak, Dawn	\$47,321.10	\$66,507.46	Salajan, George	\$79,191.98	\$109,713.15	Zweng, Christopher	\$1,916.53	\$1,946.16
FINANCE			Herrick, Christopher	\$77,565.59	\$112,898.18	Mccall, Shauna	\$1,808.00	\$1,863.91
Cole, Michelle	\$74,238.96	\$100,565.41	Hogan, Joseph	\$77,286.80	\$117,498.46	Kosikowski, Jacob	\$729.99	\$800.80
Bednark, Kenneth	\$18,124.43	\$18,515.44	Gottschalk, Colleen	\$76,716.49	\$115,982.56	Beaumont, James	\$349.55	\$354.96
Erica, Campbell	\$24,843.97	\$26,797.10	Devos, Barton	\$72,623.52	\$98,040.31	Frost, Daniel	\$59.92	\$61.77
Snook, Wendy	\$55,488.08	\$71,475.50	Hudson, Sean	\$70,500.23	\$95,511.92	2020 TOTAL \$3,687,545.14		
HUMAN RESOURCE			Paquette, Malissa	\$68,052.01	\$76,004.76	2019 TOTAL \$3,758,299.00		
Bellingham, Michelle	\$52,228.62	\$61,570.13	Rodriguez, Jesiah	\$65,750.00	\$93,308.88	Difference -\$70,753.90		
SENIORS			Dufresne, Susan	\$49,199.45	\$78,194.43	2020 employee total wages & cost to township had approximately a 1.88% decrease since 2019.		
Watson, Mary Ann	\$50,111.97	\$75,239.23	Toth, Nickolas	\$37,593.13	\$49,149.64	Benefits include FICA and may include health care, dental, life insurance and pension. Fire Fighters receive no benefits.		
BUILDING			FIRE DEPT.			Compiled by Diane Madigan.		
Wheelock, Bradley	\$45,265.04	\$55,132.88	Januszyk, Joseph	\$36,378.60	\$40,056.91			
			Armatis, Colleen	\$26,920.14	\$28,979.53			
			Wisniewski, Michael	\$14,998.67	\$15,462.39			
			Mchenry, Michael	\$14,683.82	\$15,137.79			
			Sliwa, Richard	\$10,865.02	\$11,032.97			

Court watching

(continued from page 14)

Dajon Donte Lewis

Dajon Donte Lewis, 18, of Sumpter Township, was arrested for a parole violation and he was back in jail. On Jan. 27, Judge Oakley said this charge was “easy-peasy.” Lewis was arraigned in December on four charges surrounding a shooting at Rawsonville Woods mobile home park and then got picked up on a warrant for violation of probation.

But Judge Oakley said that was for an old charge and the Sumpter Township Police

treated it as a violation.

Judge Oakley continued Lewis’ bond on the December charges, with his tether order. Lewis had been freed after posting \$100,000 bond via a bail bondsman on the Dec. 14 charges.

“This is why you have to take care of your old business,” Judge Oakley advised Lewis.

Lewis is waiting for a live exam date on his recent charges.

“Hopefully we can do the paperwork and get you out of there,” Judge Oakley said.

Joseph Donald Truskolaski

Joseph Donald Truskolaski of Wyandotte is facing a charge of operating while

intoxicated/impaired/controlled substance-3rd offense in Van Buren Township on Oct. 24.

His attorney Kim Michon of Neighborhood Defender Service is seeking a reduction of the charge and possible Sobriety Court. Michon said she has paper discovery but no digital discovery, as yet.

Prosecutor Jane Gillis said she had trouble getting the discovery from Van Buren police. She noted that the defendant has a prior charge of attempted larceny in a building. Judge Oakley adjourned the probable cause conference until Feb. 17. Truskolaski is free after posting bond of \$2,000/10%.

Tyreek Dujuan Armes

Tyreek Dujuan Armes, 17, of Van Buren Township was present for his Zoom probable cause conference before Judge Oakley.

Prosecutor Jane Gillis said she made an offer for the defendant to plead guilty to attempt to assault/resist/obstruct a police officer on Dec. 24 in Van Buren Township and the charge of actually assaulting the police officer would be dropped.

Armes’ attorney Kristina Longstreet of Neighborhood Defender Service said the probation could be set by the court and they will attempt to get him help for his mental health issues. She said he was in school now and doing good. He is in the 11th grade, good at math, and wants to be able to manage his emotions.

Armes said on Dec. 24 he got mad and had an outburst and when police said to

stop, he didn’t stop.

His mother was with him on the Zoom court session and she said they are trying to get help. She said he has a mild cognitive disability and is emotionally impaired.

Prosecutor Gillis said her office objects to the HYTA suggestion (Holmes Youthful Trainee Act) and instead wants the probation department to really monitor his counseling for a year.

Longstreet said social workers are trying to find him something to help.

Judge Oakley said he would not levy any court costs because, “It doesn’t help anybody.” He said the probation department should be able to work out a pretty-good plan.

Keenan Deshon Black

Keenan Deshon Black, 41, of Taylor is facing a charge of embezzlement by an agent or trustee between \$1,000 and \$20,000 on Jan. 3, 2020 in Van Buren Township. He is free on \$2,500 personal bond.

His attorney Cheryl Quick of Neighborhood Defender Service said she was missing video from outstanding discovery and she needed more time to be able to get the evidence.

Prosecutor Jane Gillis said she will get that to her that afternoon. “I can’t control the bank,” she said.

Judge Oakley adjourned the probable cause conference to 9:30 a.m., Feb. 17.

“You can observe a lot just by watching.”
— Yogi Berra

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP

OF VAN BUREN

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2021 ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom meeting ID 976 4750 2100 at 6:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, and Trustee Miller. Others participating, facilitating and monitoring the meeting: Secretary Montgomery, Senior Director Jordan, Planning and Economic Development Director Power, Public Services Director Best, McKenna and Associates Consultant Krishnan; Public Services Executive Assistant Renaud, Communication Specialists Albrecht and Nichols and a maximum audience of Twenty-Two (22).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Boynton moved; Frazier seconded to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, and Miller. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Martin moved, Boynton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021, Prepaid List of January 21, 2021, Prepaid List of January 28, 2021, Voucher List of February 2, 2021, Approval of the 2021 Individual Hourly Rate Schedule-Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber Inc. (FTCH) As-needed engineering contractor services.). Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, and Miller. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

The Board presented Resolution 2021-05 to Lisa Robinson-Martin in recognition of her becoming the first African-American 34th District Court Judge. The Board announced the following: Forgotten Harvest will provide food assistance from 2-4 p.m. (or while supplies last)

Tuesdays at the Township Hall; the Township Administrative offices are open by appointment only Monday through Friday 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.; the Township Administrative offices will be closed on Monday February 15, 2021 in observance of Presidents Day, encouraged residents to learn more about Black History throughout Black History Month noting Aretha Franklin as being the first African American woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; Black History facts will be presented

on the Township Facebook page throughout the month of February; the public is encouraged to send in comments regarding the design and direction of the Community Center Recreational Center; noted the Van Buren Township DDA received the best Downtown Development placemaking project award for Harris Park; advised that the remaining face masks are being delivered to residents this week; recognized the Downtown Development Authority for all the contributions they have made to the Township over the years; and reminded residents that taxes are due by the end of February so they meet the March 1, 2021 deadline.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Miller moved, Budd seconded to approve the 2021 Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) contract. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, Miller. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Budd seconded to approve the 2021 Coronavirus aid, relief, and transportation between the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) and the Charter Township of Van Buren. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, Miller. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, Frazier seconded to adopt the 2020 Planning Commission Annual Report. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, Miller. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Boynton moved to receive the 2020 Blight Control and Demolition Management Program report. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, Miller. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Boynton seconded to approve the selection of Tensile Structure Systems for the purchase and installation of a “Washington” Tensile Structure at French Landing Park with the amount of \$138,000 to be drawn from the Wayne County Parks Millage grant line item 101-718-973-001. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Engineer from FTCH Engineering thanked the Board for extending the contract.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Budd moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Published: February 11, 2021

City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville PUBLIC NOTICE MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING



The City of Belleville Board of Review will be held on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021

Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2nd. A second meeting will be on Tuesday March 9th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. **MEETINGS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

Please call (734) 697-9323 ext. 7016 to set up an appointment.

The meetings will be held in the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street, Belleville. **Due to current or future State Executive Orders, it may be necessary to conduct virtual meetings. More information will be available by contacting the Assessor's Office and on the City of Belleville's website, Bellevilleonthelake.com** The purpose will be to review the assessment roll and hear any objections. Resident and non-resident taxpayers are permitted to file protests in writing without personal appearance; letters must be received by March 9, 2021.

Verna Chapman,
City Clerk/Treasurer

Published: February 11, 2021

February 18, 2021

February 25, 2021

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FOOD GRADE BARRELS – Various sizes & styles. Inventory & pictures at www.mattsbarrels.com Call/text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 04/10

CRAFTSMAN SNOW BLOWER, electric start generator, tools, power washer & more. (734) 325-2648 02/18

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES. 4 female & 2 male. 9 weeks old. Perfect for Valentine's Day. \$900 OBO. (734) 833-7794. carolkey2222@gmail.com 02/25

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2014 JEEP PATRIOT. California Car, 4-cyl., 5-speed, 2-wheel drive. No air. Immaculate inside & out. New tires. Private owner. \$4,850. (734) 695-0819 02/11

1995 THUNDERBIRD. Very nice inside & out. 91K miles, 6 cyl. No rust, very clean, auto & power. Must see. Private owner. \$3,500 OBO (734) 695-0819 02/18

2007 FORD EXPLORER, HARLEY DAVIDSON SPECIAL. 6-passenger, 6 cyl, auto/power. Very clean. Higher miles, runs well. 4-wheel drive. Private owner. \$3,250. (734) 695-0819 02/18

2001 TOYOTA SIENNA WAGON. 6-cyl, automatic, low miles. No rust. Private owner. \$2,750. (734) 695-0819 02/25

2002 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER WAGON 6-cyl, automatic, full power & air, 4-wheel dr. Like new inside & out. \$3,250 OBO (734) 695-0819 02/25

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NEW & USED HOMES in Belleville/Canton area. Family Communities: Holiday West (734) 461-9797 & Holiday Estates (734) 495-0500. Senior Community: Royal Holiday (734) 455-2666 03/04

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@ 734-740-0628

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H & W TOP DOLLAR \$

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(734) 223-5581
(517) 605-6388

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WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

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NEWLY REMODELED-PRIME LOCATION 2 or 3 room office space on Main Street. Gas included. (734) 355-5464 02/25

WOODBURY GREEN CONDO. 3-bed/1 1/2-bath. \$1,000/mo. 2 years on the job & credit check. No pets. (734) 697-2226 02/25

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– Ronald Reagan

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R & L Machine Products, Inc.
Help wanted part time could lead to full time. Machine Operator basic CNC knowledge a plus. Secondary Operator and General Labor. Will train the right candidate. Email resume to rnlmachine@aol.com Apply in person Tuesdays and Thursdays.
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P: 734-992-2574

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855-759-7098

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"He who is without a newspaper is cut off from his species."

– P.T. Barnum

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Parrott loses appeal on evidence to go before jury in Manistee case

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Feb. 4, the Michigan Court of Appeals announced it has ruled against an appeal filed by former 34th District Court Judge David M. Parrott concerning evidence to be used in a 2018 misdemeanor drunk driving charge in Manistee County.

The 18-page ruling turned down Parrott's appeal of three district court orders that: (1) prohibited the defendant from using his preliminary breath test (PBT) at trial; (2) held that the area in which defendant's vehicle was stuck was, as a matter of law, generally accessible to motor vehicles; and

(3) denied defendant's motion *in limine* to exclude evidence regarding his occupation and display of his "badge."

Parrott appealed the orders to the Circuit Court, which denied his application for leave to appeal. The Appeals Court granted leave to appeal and scheduled oral arguments.

On June 3, 2020 the Michigan Court of Appeals heard the oral arguments in the operating while intoxicated case against then-Judge Parrott.

His attorney and a co-attorney were allowed to give their arguments in a session that lasted about 53 minutes.

Attorneys Liisa Speaker and Michael Nichols spoke on behalf of Judge Parrott, who was charged with driving while intoxicated on Dec. 25, 2018 in Manistee County, after he slid off the roadway at an intersection at about 6:28 p.m. and ended up stuck in an uncultivated field.

The attorneys told the court that Parrott had been able to drive in the field and hoped to get out himself. After working about 35 minutes, he called for a tow truck and the police got involved.

He was given a personal breath test at 7:26 p.m. which registered 0.109, which was leveled off at 0.10 according to police procedure. Michigan's level is 0.08 to be considered intoxicated for driving. Police took him into custody and at 8:08 p.m. a blood draw by the Michigan State Police showed blood alcohol content of 0.152.



Parrott

Speaker said time had passed from the time he ate his mashed potatoes and turkey meal, three minutes away from the accident.

She told the court the Manistee prosecutor has convinced the court to not allow an expert to mention the PBT test given at 7:26 p.m., and this being inadmissible denies Parrott a complete defense.

"The prosecutor has to bring up the PBT or it won't be in the case," Speaker said.

Nichols agreed this is a denial for Parrott to present a complete defense.

Nichols told of a report that shows how the alcohol level slowly rises in a body after a meal. The Appeals Court judge noted he was aware of the report.

Also, Parrott wanted a bench trial, but the prosecution wanted a jury trial and a jury trial was to be scheduled.

Gordon Miller of the Manistee County Prosecutor's Office was present at the session before the Court of Appeals.

He said Parrott displayed his badge, which meant he had a culpable state of mind, Assistant Prosecutor Miller said.

Miller said when Parrott asked, "Can anything be done?" it was an attempt to influence the arresting officer.

It was noted Parrott identified himself as a judge to the tow truck driver but said nothing like that to the officer.

Miller said that the defense might say that Parrott was just joking with his question and just wanted to be treated with fairness.

Nichols asked if the "badge" Miller noted was different from "identification" and Miller said he didn't know, but the police report refers to it as a badge.

"Some sort of ID?" Miller asked. "I could live with that."

"He spent 35 minutes trying to get out of the field and he was not over the limit then," Nichols said.

Miller said it was unclear to him whether Parrott was in the ditch or off the roadway.

Speaker gave citations of Supreme Court decisions on whether the field should be considered a roadway, in light of the charge of driving while intoxicated on a public road.

She questioned whether the field had "general accessibility" as required for a roadway and would an open field be generally accessible by a motor vehicle? She said the ditch was a steep embankment, deeper than most ditches, and the field was uncultivated and undeveloped. He was more than 33 and 38 feet from the two roads at the intersection, Speaker said.

The appeals judge noted one road ends in a field.

Speaker said her client had to call a tow truck and he had driven through trees and shrubs and a steep embankment.

Nichols pointed out the preliminary breath test that was low was taken at the time of the driving and the blood test at the police department or the hospital taken later was higher.

Miller said this was his first driving while
(continued on page 18)

13th Annual Report to Taxpayers

(continued from page 3)

Van Buren Township 2020 Employee Wages & Actual Cost

	Wages	Total Compensation
Recreation continued		
Fleming, Cole	\$12,088.08	\$13,012.82
Rupnow, Jay	\$11,154.78	\$12,008.12
Simpson, Corenina	\$11,115.67	\$11,966.02
Rupnow, Cole W	\$3,714.11	\$3,998.24
Seniors		
Jordan, Lynette	\$57,833.00	\$89,514.13
McBride, Patricia	\$40,973.09	\$63,673.55
Boone, Dezmun	\$16,127.21	\$17,360.94
Partridge, Denise	\$12,393.00	\$13,341.06
Alexander, Janie	\$4,922.72	\$5,299.31
Porter, Beverly	\$4,666.24	\$5,023.21
Stillwagon, Jeffery	\$3,987.04	\$4,292.05
Zitzewitz, Darrin	\$3,347.84	\$3,603.95
Supervisor's Office		
Sumpter, Nicole	\$74,728.89	\$115,086.68
Selman, Daniel	\$69,850.25	\$92,846.21
Rodriguez, Hannah	\$44,013.30	\$59,384.13
Treasurer Dept.		
Bellingham, Sean	\$89,474.38	\$125,968.76
Shevrovich, Jessica	\$50,075.81	\$78,517.93
Adams, Kathy	\$48,390.40	\$72,665.18
Water Dept.		
Strickland, Joseph	\$83,121.63	\$118,147.07
Pinard, Mario L	\$80,336.14	\$116,493.20
Caincross Jr, Noah	\$67,558.19	\$106,432.56
Taylor, James	\$79,077.45	\$101,670.01
McLeod, Jeremy	\$65,200.68	\$98,086.86
Patton, Brandon	\$58,559.23	\$95,545.46
Zysk, Marcus	\$56,637.98	\$86,349.22
Ladd, Martin	\$65,539.09	\$85,705.88
Hine, Bradley	\$65,372.36	\$85,391.09
Pecsenye, Karen	\$55,122.32	\$84,587.76
Valinski, Jason	\$63,317.11	\$82,605.10
Renaud, Elizabeth	\$53,120.22	\$72,698.59
Osborne, Jeffrey	\$45,278.16	\$66,829.13
Dohring, Tammy	\$43,453.43	\$58,662.29
TOTAL		\$5,189,801.02

Benefits include FICA and may include health care, dental, life insurance, vision and pension.

2020 Total Employee Wages & Actual Cost -- \$5,189,801.02

2019 Total Employee Wages & Actual Cost -- \$5,072,820.25

Difference + \$116,980.77

2020 employee total wages & compensation had approximately a 2.25% increase since 2019.

Compiled by Diane Madigan.

2020 Van Buren Township Retiree Health Care Costs

Employee	Cost to VBT
Bovitz, Kristy	\$21,427.08
Brooks, Dennis	\$8,041.26
Brooks, Ken	\$8,098.26
Cline, Kathleen A	\$23,764.92
Combs, Linda	\$2,377.80
Devos, Bart	\$8,041.26
Fleming, Pamala	\$6,571.80
Fondaw, Jeffrey	\$19,848.69
Foster, Helen	\$3,453.90
Greene, Robert	\$5,543.50
Guenther, Dale	\$2,232.16
Hunter, Donna	\$1,729.98
Kauppila, Barb	\$3,489.75
Kennedy, Sharon	\$5,242.94
Kurtz, Brenda	\$7,399.76
McIntosh, Laurie	\$20,632.12
Miller, James	\$24,033.46
Moening, Michael	\$8,098.26
Morse, Vernon	\$18,745.53
Noye, George	\$3,173.79
Osborne, Jeffrey	\$7,718.30
Partridge, Denise	\$2,348.94
Schroeder, Roy	\$2,404.08
Sears, Robert	\$3,332.16
Smith, Daniel	\$3,432.16
Smyth, Keith	\$10,168.74
Soja, Stephanie	\$3,429.90
Thornsbury, Ernie	\$16,697.53
Toney, Kenneth	\$20,954.96
Wilson, Diane	\$3,453.90
Yono, Fred	\$3,660.30
TOTAL	\$279,547.19

2020 - 31 retirees -- \$279,547.19

2019 - 30 retirees -- \$420,585.68

Difference - \$141,038.49

2020 retiree health care costs had approximately a 33.5% decrease since 2019.

Compiled by Diane Madigan.

Van Buren Township
Police Dispatch Log

There were 370 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week, including the following.

Sunday, Jan. 31:
0105 – runaway, Hull Rd.
0121 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0233 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1613 – property check, Pebblebrook/Brookside
1634 – juvenile complaint, Morton Taylor/Ecorse
1746 – disorderly, E. Sadie Ln.
1818 – private property impound, Van Born Rd.
1844 – motorist assist, Ecorse/Morton Taylor Rd.
1857 – private property impound, Sophie/Sadie
1904 – private property impound, Florence Ln.
1914 – breaking & entering, Vine St.
2004 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lancaster Dr.
2059 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter/Hull
2142 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.
2247 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.
2303 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2318 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lohr

Monday, Feb. 1:
0107 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0119 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Blvd./Lohr
0802 – suspicious activity report, Oak Ln.
1031 – follow-up by officer, Hull Rd.
1107 – assist other dept., S. Bellrige Dr.
1151 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1242 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Belleville Rd.
1339 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1514 – property damage accident, Belleville/Aldi
1602 – domestic, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr
1715 – welfare check, E. Sadie Ln.
1733 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1936 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
2033 – fraud, Crowley Ave.
2049 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
2053 – suicidal person, Quirk Rd.
2225 – suspicious person/vehicle, Kent Dr.

Tuesday, Feb. 2:
0132 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0318 – vehicle lock out, Robson Rd.
0332 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0440 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
0902 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
0922 – family trouble, Sheldon Rd.
0950 – runaway, Denton Rd.
1057 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1244 – malicious destruction of property, W. Adams
1326 – domestic, Maple Dr.
1338 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1419 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1642 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1753 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harbour Club
1814 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hanover Dr.
2353 – animal complaint, Ironwood Dr.

Wednesday, Feb. 3:
0034 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0044 – noise complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0812 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville/Quirk
0825 – private property/property damage accident, Oak Ln.
0924 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
0930 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
0940 – suspicious person/vehicle, Zachary St.
0955 – civil matter, Outer Dr.
1042 – private property impound, Denton Rd.
1044 – private property impound, Denton Rd.
1157 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1200 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1208 – suicidal person, Marlowe Ave.
1213 – property damage accident, N. Cumberland
1218 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1223 – private property impound, Denton Rd.
1300 – ordinance violation, N. Cumberland Dr.
1412 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
1415 – private property impound, Denton Rd.
1446 – private property impound, Haggerty Rd.
1642 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Westlake Cir.

1654 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1827 – assist fire dept., Holly Ln.
1835 – fraud, Washington
1923 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
2043 – suicidal person, Lake Pointe Blvd.
2320 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rose Blvd.

Thursday, Feb. 4:
0002 – motorist assist, W. I-94/Haggerty Rd.
0636 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Hannan Rd.
0743 – threat, Parkwood Dr.
0923 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
0951 – animal complaint, McBride
1042 – found property/child, Tyler Rd.
1149 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1218 – suspicious person/vehicle, Marina Dr.
1222 – retail fraud, Menards
1255 – threat, Holly Ln.
1453 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1456 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck
1700 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
1749 – harassment call, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1757 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

2002 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Parkwood Dr.
2007 – property damage accident, Savage Rd. / Martinsville Rd.
2020 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2102 – animal complaint, Ecorse Rd.
2206 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Independence Ln.
2210 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
2221 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Sadie/Anna
2229 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
2329 – motorist assist, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.

Friday, Feb. 5:
0019 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
0100 – parking complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0239 – motorist assist, Haggerty Rd./E. I-94
0304 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0332 – motorist assist, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0701 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
0758 – property damage accident, E. Archwood Dr. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
0931 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1134 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1134 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1200 – suspicious person/vehicle, Woodbury Green
1455 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sunset Pond Cir.
1536 – property damage accident, W. I-94 / Haggerty Rd.
1654 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Sheldon Rd.
1847 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
2059 – threat, McBride Ave.
2107 – property damage accident, Sheldon Rd. / Van Born Rd.

Saturday, Feb. 6:
0157 – domestic, Denton Rd.
0350 – follow up by officer, Lesure
0611 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
0644 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1010 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1050 – traffic offense, Quirk Rd.
1131 – shooting, S. Bellridge Dr.
1135 – traffic offense, Morton Taylor/Ecorse
1319 – traffic offense, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton
1353 – property damage accident, Riggs Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1421 – property damage accident, Hannan/Tyler
1535 – assist other dept., Rogers Ave.
1715 – neighbor trouble, Outer Dr.
1844 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
2019 – runaway, Arborview Ln.
2202 – 911 welfare check, Van Born Rd.
2216 – civil matter, Briarwood Dr.
2328 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beckley Rd.

Also on this week's log are 177 traffic stops, 54 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police
Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 31:
0233 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Wexford
1817 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2006 – mental subject, N. Liberty St.

Monday, Feb. 1:
0220 – traffic stop, Bay Pointe Dr./W. Huron River
0547 – vehicle lock out, Biggs Ave.

1415 – civil matter, E. Huron River Dr.
1716 – civil matter, Loza Ln.
2101 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
2125 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harbour Pointe
Tuesday, Feb. 2:
0847 – suspicious person/vehicle, Victorian Ln. / Oxford Ct.
1233 – breaking & entering, Church St.
1345 – fraud, W. Columbia Ave.
1631 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
2111 – property check, Church St.
2155 – traffic stop, South St.

Wednesday, Feb. 3:
0109 – property check, Church St.
1021 – abandoned auto, Victorian Ln.
1207 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1220 – harassment call, E. Huron River Dr.
1516 – traffic offense, N. Liberty St.
1533 – property damage accident, Main St./E. Columbia Ave.

Thursday, Feb. 4:
0111 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1032 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr.
1130 – misc. complaint, Wexford Ave.
1407 – misc. complaint, Hull Rd.
1440 – welfare check, Carmell St.

Friday, Feb. 5:
0813 – vehicle lock out, Potter Dr.
0958 – parking complaint, N. Liberty St.
1112 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
1257 – traffic stop, Madelon St./E. Huron River Dr
1347 – traffic stop, Main St.
1356 – traffic stop, Main S.
1359 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd.
1406 – misc. complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1620 – welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.
1836 – parking complaint, N. Liberty St.

Saturday, Feb. 6:
0817 – noise complaint, Angola St.
0845 – traffic stop, Sumpter/Columbia Ave.
1045 – suicidal person, Carmell St.
1554 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1727 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
2049 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Denton
2123 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./Madelon
2128 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./S. Liberty
There were 12 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township
Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 31:
0013 – follow-up investigation, 25000 bl. Elwell
0758 – family trouble, Redwood St.
1340 – 911 hang up, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1340 – property damage accident, Carriage Ln.
1600 – assist other agency, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
1634 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1657 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.
1834 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2024 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Birch
2126 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

Monday, Feb. 1:
0258 – civil matter, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
0311 – family trouble, Edgewood Dr.
0950 – 911 hang up, 27000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1119 – citizen assist, Mulberry Dr.
1719 – misc. detail, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1726 – misc. detail, 17000 bl. Odyssey Dr.
1744 – misc. detail, Edgewood Dr.
1830 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1858 – welfare check, Redwood St.
2128 – citizen assist, Mulberry Dr.

Tuesday, Feb. 2:
0401 – mental health call, Rustic Ln.
0449 – family trouble, Redwood St.
0759 – welfare check, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
0900 – harassment complaint, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1003 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
1206 – 911 hang up, Birch Dr.
1335 – follow-up investigation, Redwood St.
1451 – suspicious circumstances, Wayside Dr.
1454 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.
1618 – 911 hang up, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
1856 – misc. details, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2215 – welfare check, Wayside Dr.

Wednesday, Feb. 3:
0046 – property damage accident, Willis/Sherwood
0819 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.
1024 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.

1114 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster Ave.
1127 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1130 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Willis Rd.
1339 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Clark Rd.
1341 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1544 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1919 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1924 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1946 – property damage accident, 51000 bl. Willis
2355 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.

Thursday, Feb. 4:
0659 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Willis Rd.
1030 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.
1400 – animal complaint, Rustic Ln.
1546 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1831 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.
2146 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Fenster Ave.

Friday, Feb. 5:
0008 – traffic stop, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0134 – traffic stop, Judd Rd./Carleton West Rd.
0147 – alarm, 46000 bl. Kozma Rd.
0237 – ORV complaint, Walnut St.
0240 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0747 – welfare check, Willis Rd./Wilmot Rd.
1009 – welfare check, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1154 – alarm, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1222 – suspicious circumstances, 45000 bl. Dunn
1338 – property damage accident, 8700 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1517 – animal complaint, Oakville Waltz/Karr
1844 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1938 – suspicious person, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1948 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Saturday, Feb. 6:
0002 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
0930 – suspicious circumstances, 20000 bl. Karr
1850 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2008 – malicious destruction of property, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Elwell Rd.
Also on this week's log are 48 patrol checks. There were three traffic stops this week.

Parrott

(continued from page 17)

intoxicated case and he would not be the one prosecuting the case in Circuit Judge David A. Thompson's courtroom.

Parrott's case has been put on hold in Manistee Circuit Court until the appeals court decision was announced.

The appeals court judges hearing the case were Thomas C. Cameron, Mark T. Boonstra, and Anica Letica.

The audio of this Zoom oral argument before the Michigan Court of Appeals is available by going online to the Michigan Court of Appeals and putting in David Parrott's name or court of appeals case #350380.

In another case, Parrott is scheduled for an April 8 and 9 jury trial on a misdemeanor domestic violence assault and battery charge before 35th District Court Judge James A. Plakas in Plymouth.

Parrott is charged with assaulting his live-in girlfriend on Feb. 8, 2020 in his Van Buren Township condo. The case was in the 34th District Court venue but it was moved to 35th District Court to avoid a conflict of interest because Parrott was a sitting judge at 34th District Court.

In 2020, Judge Plakas gave Parrott permission to be out of state Feb. 15-22 and March 6-14, after being convinced Parrott was not a flight risk.

This year, Parrott was permitted to travel to Winter Park, CO, Feb. 1-7.

“You have to be odd to be number one.”
— Dr. Seuss

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Sumpter OKs new settlement with Bednark in special closed meeting

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Following more than a hour of discussion in virtual closed session Feb. 2, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously in open session to accept the township attorney's recommendations and actions as advised during the closed-door session.

It was not stated publicly, but the board decided to give Deputy Supervisor Kenneth Bednark everything he asked for in a recent letter to board members concerning his compensation.

The notice for closed session said the board would discuss attorney-client privileged information and pending litigation with the State of Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Division.

Fourteen minutes before the closed meeting began, all board members received an email from Bednark's attorney, Sarah Prescott of Salvatore Prescott Porter & Porter.

Prescott announced in red capital letters *** DO NOT DESTROY SPECIFIED DOCUMENTS *** and then explained this was a "Hold Notice," putting them all on notice regarding their obligation to preserve all private and governmental information in whatever location concerning Bednark's employment with

the township – even if the documents may be covered by the attorney-client privilege. Documents must be preserved until further notice, she advised in the page and a half of details naming everything that had to be preserved.

According to a story in the *Eagle*, an online publication purporting to be Sumpter's "newspaper of record," the letter from Bednark demanded back pay, interest, insurance, sick and vacation time accrued from the date of his swearing in on Nov. 20 until the board set his annual pay as a half-time deputy supervisor at \$8,406 with no benefits on Dec. 15.

Although the board had voted in a special meeting on Nov. 17 to suspend all board meetings until the end of the year, three trustees called for a special meeting on Dec. 15, at which time Bednark's full-time appointment as deputy supervisor was diminished to part-time of 20 hours a week, with an annual pay of \$8,406 (\$8.08 per hour). Also, all benefits were stripped from the job.

This was on a 5-2 vote, with Trustee Matthew Oddy, Trustee Tim Rush, Trustee Don LaPorte, Treasurer Jim Clark, and Clerk Esther Hurst voting yes and Trustee Peggy Morgan and Supervisor Tim Bowman voting no.

But, Bednark announced he got no paycheck at all after that because the township was deducting what it considered extra payments from his small paycheck and there was none left over.

At the Jan. 26 meeting of the board, after repeated attempts to settle the issue, the board voted unanimously to pay Bednark \$31.44 per hour in wages [matching what the latest Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis had made] from Nov. 20 through Dec. 15, plus \$500 to satisfy other pay issues. Trustee LaPorte was not present at that meeting.

Bednark subsequently rejected that offer and the closed-door session was scheduled.

Meanwhile, after the Jan. 26 board meeting in which Supervisor Bowman and Bednark exchanged words, Bednark announced he was giving two weeks' notice and would be submitting his signed resignation at noon on Feb. 10. He also stopped coming into the office.

"I can't operate under someone I have no communication with," Bednark said, referring to the 50-plus emails he said he sent to Supervisor Bowman, with but one reply. He said Bowman told him he liked to have all conversations in person.

At the Jan. 26 meeting, Bowman said, "I'm a full-grown man ... I'm perfectly capable of working on my own ... You don't need to stir the fire... I'm frustrated with you not being paid... We need to get along." Bowman said the only people being disadvantaged are the people of Sumpter Township.

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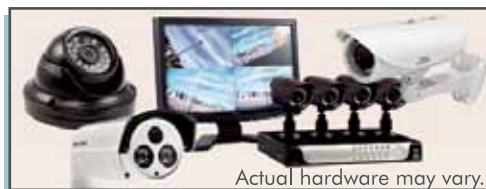
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